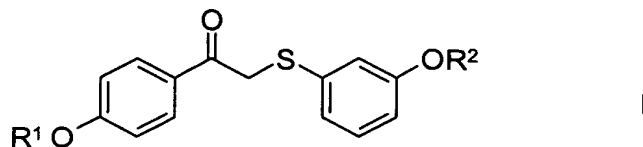
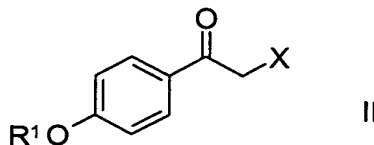


We claim:

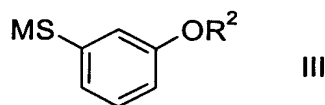
1. A process for preparing  $\alpha$ -(3-arylthio)acetophenones of the general formula I



in which the substituents  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are each independently  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl,  $SiR^3_3$  where the substituent  $R^3$  is a  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl radical, or an optionally substituted phenyl or benzyl radical, which comprises reacting, in methanol acetophenones of the general formula II



in which the substituent X is Cl or Br with a thiolate of the general formula III



in which M is an alkali metal.

2. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-[(3-methoxyphenyl)thio]ethanone is prepared.
3. A process as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein M is sodium.
4. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, wherein a thiolate of the general formula III is prepared by reacting the appropriate thiol with sodium methoxide.